(b) to (d) Instructions have already been issued by Reserve Bank of India to all scheduled commercial banks that in the case of farmers affected by drought for 3 or more years in succession, they may defer recovery of the amounts falling due on account of interest in the current year (July 1987—June 1988) for a period of 2 years or till the next normal years if it occurs earlier. Further no penal interest should be charged in such cases and the interest on the dues postponed should also not be compounded. RBI has further instructed the banks to charge only concessional interest at 10 per cent per annum on short them loans upto Rs. 5000|- in the case of farmers who have suffered 3 or more consecutive droughts and whose loans have been converted|reschedule. These concessions are expected to provide adequate relief in case of farmers affected by drought. There is no proposal to exempt interest as such.

Indo Iran trade

48. SHRI HASHIM RAZA ALLAHABADI ABDI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any discussions have recently been held between Iran and India to boost trade;

(b) if so, what are the details of the discussions held; and

(c) what is the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Discussions were held at Government and corporate levels with a delegation led by H.E. Mr. Behzad Nabavi, Minister of Heavy Industry Islamic Republic of Iran visited India from 18th to 25th December, 1987.

(b) and (c) Areas of economic technical and industrial cooperation were identified and a number of Memorandum of Understanding were signed between Indian and Iranian companies covering transfer of technology, supply of equipment in sectors such as castings and forgings, machine tools, automative components etc.

Clearance of irrigation project in Andhra Pradesh

49. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA:
PROF. C. LAKSHAMANNA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh requested the Prime Minister on January 27, 1988 for immediate clearance of irrigation projects like the Telugu Ganga the Vamsadhara and the Sriram Sagar left bank canal; and

(b) if so, when the clearance is likely to be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) The projects were discussed. Their clearance can be considered after inter-State concurrence is obtained by Andhra Pradesh Government.

Lathi-charge on advocates in Delhi

50. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a lathi-charge on the advocates in Delhi recently, resulting in a strike by the advocates in Delhi High Court and subordinate Courts; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government against the erring police officials and to institute a judicial inquiry into the lathi-charge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) According to

information received from Delhi Administration, an incident took place on 21st January, 1988 at Tis Hazari Courts.

(b) Delhi Administration decided to constitute a Committee consisting of two Hon'ble Judges of the High Court of Delhi, in consultation with the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Delhi High Courts, to inquire into the incidents of 15th January, 1988, 21st January, 1988 and 17th February, 1988.

Curb on Government expenditure

51. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether eminent economists have suggested that Government should curb the current expenditure to boost public savings, generate resources for investment and keep the budget deficit within reasonable limits; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government on these suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) At the pre-budget meeting held with Economists on 6th January, 1988, they *inter-alia* stressed the need to raise the overall saving rate in the economy, the need to generate resources for investment, importance of curbing the growth in Government current expenditure and keeping the budget deficit within manageable limits. Suggestion made by Economists, as indeed from other associations and persons are taken into account in the formulation of Government Policy.

Visit of investment survey mission of Japan to India

52. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an investment Survey mission from Japan visited India recently to examine the possibility of reversing the declining Japanese private investment in this country; and

(b) if so, the details of the discussions, the Mission had with the Indian Government officials and the conclusions reached?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) A Japanese Investment Environment Survey Mission comprising 35 members visited India from 21st to 29th January, 1988 for discussions with officials of the Government of India, Reserve Bank of India, State Governments etc. as well as with representatives of the industry.

(b) The discussions covered India's foreign investment policy and the state of the economy in general. The visit was exploratory in nature.

Creation of a Customs Marine Organisation

53. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have created a new customs marine organisation for curbing sumggling activities within India's territorial waters; and